AMENDMENTS

This section presents changes to the application in a clean-unmarked format. A version with markings to show the changes made by the current amendment is provided after the remarks section.

In the Claims:

Presented below are the claims, as amended, with changes entered and not marked.

1. (Once Amended) A method comprising a network computer (NC) client causing a plurality of NC clients that are booted to receive operating system software that is configured differently than that currently in effect by replacing one or more system volumes on a NC server containing the operating system software with one or more different system volumes.

2. (Once Amended) A method comprising:

a network computer (NC) client causing a working copy of one or more system volumes on a NC server to be created by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by each of the plurality of NC clients; and

the NC client causing a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize an altered operating system by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

3.   (Once Amended) A method comprising:

a network computer (NC) client booting from a boot image provided by a NC server, the boot image including information identifying the location of one or more system volumes on the NC server, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software;

creating a working copy of the one or more system volumes by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes; and

changing the operating system software supplied by the NC server to subsequently booted NC clients by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

4.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the NC client causing those of the plurality of NC clients that subsequently open an application to utilize an altered version of the application by the replacing one or more system volumes, wherein the one or more system volumes further comprise application software.

5.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one NC client of the plurality of NC clients is not rebooted for a period of time after the replacing.

6.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the operating system software comprises one of Macintosh, Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Windows NT, Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows CE, AIX, UNIX, and Linux.

7.   (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising the NC client causing those of the plurality of NC clients that subsequently open an application to utilize an

altered version of the application by the modifying and replacing, wherein the one or more system volumes further comprise application software.

8.   (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the operating system software comprises one of Macintosh, Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Windows NT, Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows CE, AIX, UNIX, and Linux.

9.   (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising changing an application software supplied by the NC server to clients that subsequently open the application by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy, wherein the one or more system volumes further comprise application software.

10.   (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the operating system software comprises one of Macintosh, Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Windows NT, Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows CE, AIX, UNIX, and Linux.

11.   (New) A method comprising the steps of:

a step for a network computer (NC) client causing a working copy of one or more system volumes on a NC server to be created by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by each of the plurality of NC clients; and

a step for the NC client causing those a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize an altered operating system by modifying the working

copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

12. (New) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform:

a network computer (NC) client causing a working copy of one or more system volumes on a NC server to be created by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by each of the plurality of NC clients; and

a plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to utilize an altered operating system by modifying the working copy and replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

13. (New) A method comprising:

causing a plurality of network computer (NC) clients that are booted to utilize an altered operating system by:

receiving a request to create a working copy of one or more system volumes, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that is utilized by the plurality of NC clients;

in response to the receiving a request, creating the working copy by copying the one or more system volumes to a storage area separate from the location of the one or more system volumes;

receiving modifications to the working copy;

updating the working copy in response to the receiving modifications; and

replacing the one or more system volumes with the working copy.

14.   (New) An apparatus comprising:

a network computer (NC) server comprising one or more system volumes;

a plurality of NC clients, wherein one of the plurality of NC clients is configured to cause those of the plurality of NC clients that are subsequently booted to receive operating system that is configured differently that that currently in effect by replacing the one or more system volumes with one or more different system volumes.

15.   (New) An apparatus comprising:

a network computer (NC) server means comprising one or more system volume means;

a NC client means for causing a plurality of NC clients means that are subsequently booted to receive operating system software that is configured differently that that currently in effect by replacing the one or more system volume means with one or more different system volumes means.